



# SITUATION REPORT #98



**INCIDENT NAME:** Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: August 10, 2020	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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**AFFECTED AREA:** Walla Walla, Washington

**CURRENT SITUATION:** COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

<b>2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents - Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center</b>	<b>Number</b>
Confirmed Cases	549
Recovered	419
Deaths	3
<b>2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Out-of-County Residents – Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center</b>	
Confirmed Cases	4
<b>Tests Submitted –</b>	<b>Number</b>
Estimated Pending Tests Results	75
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County)	7331
<b>Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence</b>	<b>Number</b>
Burbank/Wallula	53
College Place	75
Dixie	2
Prescott	28
Touchet/Lowden	8
Waitsburg	1
Walla Walla	382
<b>TOTAL</b>	549



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Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	69
20-39	221
40-59	177
60-79	66
Over 80	16
Confirmed Cases by Gender	Number
Female	250
Male	299
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>549</b>

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2<sup>nd</sup> request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 8/14/2020
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.



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## 1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
WA-20208108891	8/10/2020	Tier 1 Consolidated PPE request	Assigned to Logistics

## 2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) met with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Local Health Officer, Prosecuting Attorney and Local Emergency Response Coordinator completing Voluntary and Involuntary Isolation Orders specific to COVID-19.
- Maintain contact with media to keep the public informed.
- Unified Command calls providing regular communication and collaboration.
- Frequent messaging on Facebook, including Spanish-language posts.
- Providence St Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) Population Health team monitoring PUIs and cases, their awareness of community happenings.
- Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) food bank distribution in collaboration with Washington National Guard (WNG).
- Southgate Campus Acute Care wing setup.
- Addressing homeless needs for isolation and quarantine during pandemic.
- DCH Environmental Health team consults for prevention planning for essential businesses.
- Controlled access to WalMart, Home Depot, Albertson's and Safeway.
- Procurement of PPE from Washington State Department of Corrections.
- Continued partnership with WNG.
- DCH virtual meetings with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Proactive work on PSA's and infographics with digital marketing company.
- Solid protocol established between Coroner's Office and PSMMC.
- Tyson compliance with DCH/L&I Essential Business Guidelines and testing of employees.
- Delivery of PPE supplies and test kits from UAC SEOC has enabled us to provide much needed protection to our whole community.
- Experience with annual flu immunization clinics and long history of working together gave us the ability to quickly put together a team for testing at the Tyson Plan. 1,290 Tyson employees tested with staff from PSMMC & DCH.
- Aggressive testing at long-term care facilities.
- Spanish-language PSA's on local Spanish-language radio stations.
- Approval of additional DCH positions and increased hours by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Media specific email and phone number established, the centralized PIO email/phone number is working well and is helping with coordination of interviews.



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- Protocols developed by PSMMC to do surgeries for most compelling cases that were delayed.
- Volunteer staffing at DCH.
- DCH/PSMMC/Coroner/Consulate's Office worked together to support a local family with international funeral arrangements.
- PSMMC has done a great job of allocating resources, workers, and supplies for the patients under investigation awaiting results.
- DCH conversations with school districts on distance learning strategies and graduation planning.
- PSMMC tabletop exercise for activation of PSMMC's auxiliary hospital; well attended by community partners.
- Formation of business/economy reopening workgroup. Workgroup team meetings including townhall Q&A with local businesses; webinars to help educate businesses. Continued frequent meetings of the workgroup. Use of Chamber of Commerce website for posting documentation/guidance.
- Tour of PSMMC Alternate Care site, DCH isolation and quarantine sites, and Park Manor by DOH Med Surge Branch.
- DCYF, Whitman, and DCH debrief on activation of isolation and quarantine for Master's Ranch – West juveniles; successful collaboration.
- Approval of WWEM part-time temp position for logistics by the Board of County Commissioners.
- 1 nurse and 1 disease investigator on staff over the weekend as cases come in over the weekend.
- All of our cases to date are from a known exposure; we're not seeing community spread.
- Arrival of 36,000 masks for low-income population in time for Governor's face mask mandate. Rapid distribution by Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) to nearly 30 agencies and on 6/30/20 at 4 locations in the community.
- With the assistance of DCH, PSMMC received Remdesivir.
- DCH and PSMMC community outreach event at First Fruits; mask distribution and information sharing.
- Reopening workgroup recommendation – though no longer required for businesses, a contact log is a good practice.
- Having COVID safety plans in place at businesses benefits successful response to positive employees, as seen recently at a local restaurant.
- City of College Place Hand sanitizer and mask drive-through distribution on 7/7/20 (300 vehicles) and 7/9/20 (400 vehicles). Handout at their booth at Thursday Farmers Market.
- Meeting on 7/8/20 with DCH/WWEM/USFS/DNR to discuss preplanning for COVID testing, isolation and quarantine.
- Al fresco dining in Downtown Walla Walla and College Place are working well.
- CEPHEID rapid testing machine is now being fully utilized by PSMMC at full capacity.
- Planning for isolation and quarantine of wildland firefighters with use of space at Walla Walla Community College.
- DCH work with large Oregon employer to coordinate cases with Umatilla County; providing education and resources (Health Fair) for employees.
- Hand washing stations at several locations in Downtown Walla Walla.
- [Washington National Guard Title 32 extension through Christmas](#). WNG are a critical to local food bank operations.
- Successful health fair at Smith Frozen Foods at August 6<sup>th</sup>.



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- DCH received 36K cloth masks from GCACH (also received 24K KN95s) giving them out at health fairs; please reach out to DCH if you need masks.
- PSMMC received another PAPR order for nursing staff.
- Highest number of COVID patients (11) since the beginning of the pandemic and yet the hospital isn't overwhelmed.
- PSMMC was able to get some Abbott test supplies through State EM link provided by EM.

## 3. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Cases–
  - Total Confirmed Cases: 549
    - Active: 129
      - ❖ Home Isolation: 120
      - ❖ Hospitalized: 7 – Walla Walla County residents, 4– out of county
    - Recovered: 417
    - Deaths: 3
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Ongoing thoughtful, timely communications.
- Multiple testing platforms needed to overcome COVID testing challenges.
- DCH Spanish-language outreach program to improve messaging to Spanish speaking community.
- There are production shortages of rapid testing supplies for the new Cepheid machine. PSMMC is, for now, limited to 180 kits per week.
- **Critical** shortage of disinfectant; no wipes delivered yet; some solution though not sure if it is solution that can be utilized.
- High rate of COVID cases in neighboring counties in both WA and OR. Continued concerns about nonessential travel to/from these counties causing an increase in our case count.
- Overlap among counties for services, work, medical care and families. P
- Need to continue to monitor for behavioral health issues.
- Long test result turnaround time is making it difficult to keep PUI cases under self-quarantine.
- Case investigation slowed by contacts not answering phone calls from DCH.
- Asymptomatic testing requests increasing (can impact the time for symptomatic testing turn around if implemented).
- Lab test turnaround time is still a challenge but improving. Improvements anticipated with LabCorp when they expand their testing capacity in August.
- Continued increase in number of cases in the community. Gatherings are driving up county numbers, seeing household member transmissions.
- Governor's most recent orders are more restrictive for restaurants.
- Availability of child-sized masks for those who cannot afford them. (State-level planning is ongoing to supply communities.)
- PSMMC implemented reduced hours of operation for drive through COVID testing when temps were well over 100 degrees. Reduced hours will continue even though temps have dropped down to the 90s; will be reevaluated. Other health-care providers are operating with reduced hours for testing due to heat.
- Outbreak at Washington State Penitentiary; continuing to see cases.



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- PSMMC ER is seeing large number of individuals presenting with COVID symptoms; 15 – 20 PUI daily.
- Implementation of Governor Inslee's new screening requirements for airports presents challenges. The Port of Walla Walla doesn't not have enforcement capability, screening process adds additional cost to the airport.
- Concerns about school not reopening: Port of Walla Walla reports that they are getting a few businesses asking about childcare opportunities, since both parents are either back at work or working from home and cannot focus on children's education. PSMMC reports that there is employee anxiety regarding schools opening using virtually learning vs. in-person; creates childcare issues. Challenge for most families. Some have said that they may have to quit. Seattle Times article: <https://bit.ly/2PDzfS7>
- Rural and smaller counties taking longer to get CARES funding; BOCC, Port of Walla Walla and others are working with legislators to improve processes.
- Highest number of COVID patients (11) since the beginning of the pandemic.

## 4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM coordination with WSDA and Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) for Food Assistance Program.
- WWEM continued collection of donations from the community.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC).
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- Submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- Unified Command EOC conference calls; Monday-Thursday.
- Weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Continued LTC/SNF/ALF isolation/surge planning/coordination.
- Ongoing communications of the State's 'Smart Start' information down to the local level to ensure local businesses understand the requirements for Phase 2 operations.
- Reopening Business Workgroup:
  - Weekly Business Resource Town Hall (T/Th, 9 am)
  - Visitor's Center kiosk on Main Street giving out masks
  - Continue 'safe visit' messaging for people coming to Walla Walla from high COVID areas
  - Masks are being given out at hotels, short-term rentals or visitors (Chamber of Commerce distributing to hospitality businesses)
  - Continue distribution of masks (ag and low-income, others)



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- 50,000 educational postcards have arrived and are being distributed to lodging businesses (B&B, hotels, and other short-term rental enterprises); postcards are being given to Port of Walla Walla for distribution at the Walla Walla Regional Airport to persons arriving in Walla Walla.
- Changes made to weekend operations on Main Street Walla Walla; did not close Main Street over the weekend after feedback from merchants about parking issues when it was closed the previous week.
- Chamber of Commerce reports that **25 – 30%** of visitors arrive without a face covering and no knowledge of restrictions at restaurants, wineries, and other businesses. They are hearing 'Walla Walla is open.'
- DCH working on 30-day extensions for FEMA approval of non-congregate housing for isolation and quarantine.
- DCH and PSMMC Health Fairs; education, masks, CDC flyer (including Spanish-language information with a bilingual team)
  - First Fruits, August 12th
  - Tyson Fresh Meats, tentatively August 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Salvation Army foodbank operations (information in food boxes)
  - Valle Lindo Homes (Walla Walla Housing Authority farmworkers housing), TBD
  - Valley Transit transfer station, TBD
- DCH and PSMMC working with Washington State Department of Corrections for increase in case count at Washington State Penitentiary. Washington National Guard is being deployed to assist with test of incarcerated individuals and staff.
- Resource request with SEOC for airconditioned trailer for drive thru at PSMMC Southgate location was returned; links provided for procuring a trailer. DCH passed the information on to PSMMC.
- College Place has placed an order for another drive through mask & hand sanitizer give away; to be held in the next couple of weeks.
- DCH is still working with Rite-Aid on reporting of test results. Reporting test results has not been consistent; DOH involvement to address issues.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition –
  - Facilitating Weekly Regional COVID Updates (Tuesdays 3-3:30pm) for hospital, EM, EMS, and PH partners to report on the regional data based on WATrac, WA Health, and the REDi Situation Report; provide any important updates from the region and the state; highlight any critical stats and ask for context/implications/major decisions to the numbers or any discrepancies.
  - Supporting the Crisis Standards of Care Regional Clinical Triage Team which is ready and waiting to activate if needed
  - Facilitating daily DMCC briefings (Mon/Wed/Fri 7:30am) to share situational awareness regarding patient placement
  - Core Member Advisory Group is still soliciting a replacement candidate for the Public Health Seat. Applications for this voluntary role close on Friday.
  - REDi Position openings: 1 training and exercise coordinator position, <https://srhd.org/careers-volunteers-1>
  - Running the Situational Awareness Response Process (Tuesdays and Fridays 9-11am): data is requested from all healthcare agencies in eastern WA (e.g., hospitals, LTC, clinics, ESRD) by 11am on Tuesdays and Fridays



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- Running the REDi Resource Coordination Process: Querying the region on Thursdays for any resources that healthcare partners can directly share with one another because PPE is still in demand and WA state is still in contingency status with regards to resources.
- REDi Regional Response Plan trainings for partners starting next week Thursday and Friday –
  - Patient Placement trainings: Fridays 1-2pm starting August 7th
  - Patient Tracking trainings: Thursdays 1-2pm starting August 6thThese are Awareness level trainings appropriate for all stakeholders in either process (hospital, LTC, EMS, EM, Public Health), last ~35-40 minutes.
- DCH August 12 conference call with Private and Public schools on reopening and support needed for monitoring data.
- DCH completed the Whitman College agreement to use North Hall for isolation and quarantine (extension until October 31), BOCC to sign this morning.
- DCH has a 530K rental assistance through Department of Commerce for the whole county; have until end of October to use: BOCC approving application today.

**Prepared By:** Liz Jessee & Patrick Purcell, Emergency Management Coordinator, 509-524-2901 or ppurcell@co.walla-walla.wa.us

## REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 8/12 3:00-4:00

## COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

- August 10:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DOC conducted testing at Washington State Penitentiary for staff and inmates
- DCH partnering with large agriculture businesses to provide education and distribute face masks; Health Fairs are planned for the next three weeks
- DCH 'Health Space' training is August 4<sup>th</sup> for health data management
- DCH, Emergency Management, and neighboring SE counties collaborative meeting with US Forest Service and DNR planning for safety during Wildfire season response relating to Covid-19
- DCH and BMAC continue to coordinate community mask distributions
- DCH is working with CMBell to develop 30 second video clips and radio ads to increase our Spanish language outreach
- DCH convened meeting with local schools to review and discuss plans for opening in the fall. Discussions around risks and challenges, sports activities, sharing plans and ideas to support each other through development and implementation of safety plans
- DCH is developing Spanish language materials to distribute to various Spanish language community settings by DCH staff and volunteers
- DCH convened a Walla Walla Co. Reopening work group meetings held on Tuesdays at noon to review guidelines and to align messaging and customize the guidance to our local businesses.
- DCH Communications team developed PSAs in Spanish, will be airing 2x per day on local radio

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- Providence's Population Health team of nurses and social workers has monitored over **3048** patients from the Walla Walla Valley. All were tested for COVID-19 and were symptomatic
- DCH sent a letter to Long-Term Care Facilities discussing alignment on 'Compassionate Care' visits and how to continue to protect resident's health. DCH working closely with LTC/AFL/SNFs on monitoring DSHS and DOH visitation requirements
- DCH will partner with surrounding Health Departments in Benton, Franklin and Yakima Counties to create a full-page ad for local newspaper LaVoz to encourage the use of face coverings
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH Environmental Health team is providing consults for businesses
- DCH and City of Walla Walla continue temporary shelter planning for isolation of unsheltered cases
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- **Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with symptoms (hours are now limited due to heat concerns between 6am-12pm)**
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- **DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**
- DCH attending daily DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- Counties & Cities continue working online, telephone, virtual to limit interactions with the public
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

## COMMUNICATIONS:

- One-Stop for Users: City of Walla Walla's website and Department of Community Health's website now linked together. <https://www.wallawallawa.gov/our-city/covid-19>
- Spanish-language posts to Facebook by DCH; shared on (WWEM) Facebook page.
- U.S. Senator Cantwell has a website with Resources and Information for Washingtonians and Small Businesses Navigating the COVID-19 Crisis: [www.cantwell.senate.gov](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov)
- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** [eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

**ANTICIPATED NEEDS:** Contact tracing.

## WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

### Web Site Information:

- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: [www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus)
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>



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- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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**DISTRIBUTED TO:** Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHM Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHM, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office